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**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0064-EA-North Sand Hills SRMA Resource Protection

PROJECT NAME: North Sand Hills SRMA Resource Protection - Campground

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: SE1/4 SE1/4 Sec.35, T.11 N. R. 79 W.;
NE1/4 NE1/4 Sec.2, T. 10 N/ R/ 79 W/

KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE, KREMMLING, COLORADO

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:

APPLICANT: BLM

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION:

Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns: The North Sand Hills Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) is located 3.5 miles east of Cowdrey in Jackson County, Colorado. Approximately 20,000 visitors use the site on an annual basis as a destination for Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use and for overnight camping. The SRMA currently is open to dispersed camping and has two vault toilets located within its boundaries. A third vault toilet is located on adjacent State Trust Lands. Over time, the North Sand Hills SRMA has become increasingly popular as an OHV destination area. During holiday weekends, visitation can be as great as 5000 visitors, with dispersed camping occurring along all existing roads and trails. The unregulated dispersed camping has caused increasing impacts to natural and cultural resources within the SRMA. Resource impacts include the creation of new unauthorized trails, damage to vegetation, the cutting and removal of Aspen trees, and the erosion of the banks and sedimentation of Government Creek. The North Sand Hills also contains cultural resources that have been impaired by the increased visitation and dispersed camping within the area. The current recreational development and facilities are not adequate or efficient to meet the public demand at the site. To address the impact to resources from dispersed camping and the lack of facilities, the BLM Kremmling Field Office submitted a Deferred Maintenance proposal in 2002 to construct a campground within the North Sand Hills SRMA for the purpose of resource protection. The proposal was for a ½ mile of new access road, a minimum of 10 campsites and a new CXT concrete vault toilet. Funding of \$200,000 has recently been made available for this project through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action includes new construction of 13 campsites, a two vault CXT concrete vault toilet and 840 feet of new road to provide additional camping opportunities and alleviate crowding within the dispersed camping areas. The specific drawings for the proposed construction project are included as attachments. The work would be done by a contractor and begin in July 2010. There would be no closures within the SRMA during construction. The contractor would complete the road, camp site and CXT construction (items 1 – 5). The other items would be completed by Kremmling Field Office employees as funds and materials became available (items 6 – 9). The construction plans and layouts from BLM Engineering are presented as Attachment 1.

1. The new campground would be located between County Roads 6N and 6S, providing 13 individual campsites. Access to the campground would be from both county roads.
2. 840 feet of new road would be leveled and graveled to access the campsites from County Roads 6N and 6S. Culverts would be placed at both entrances of the new road. The road would be 20 feet in width.
3. The new 1000 gallon CXT vault toilet would be located along County Road 6N, near campsite #1 which would be designed and constructed to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. A pull out for vehicles and parking meeting ADA requirements would be constructed adjacent to the restroom.
4. Thirteen individual campsites would have a graveled pullout for parking which could accommodate large Recreation Vehicles with trailers and one additional vehicle. Pullout areas would be delineated by large boulders. Each site would have a tent pad, picnic table, and a fire ring. Three of the pullouts would be enlarged as shared parking for campsites, allowing for larger groups to camp together. Two of these pullouts would access two campsites, while the third would access three campsites.
5. Aspen trees would be placed between and around campsites to blend in with the area resources and setting, and to provide shade opportunities.
6. Steel posts and cable would be installed by BLM Kremmling Field Office employees along the new road and at each site to keep OHV's and other motorized equipment from damaging tent pads, picnic tables, fire rings and the surrounding vegetation.
7. The campground would be a developed area and would require visitors to have pets leashed at all times. A steel post would be installed within the non-motorized area of each individual campsite to provide a mast for leashing pets.
8. Appropriate signage would be installed to delineate each site. A kiosk would be placed at the entrance of the new road along County Road 6N, providing information on the campground, map of campground layout and rules and regulations for the area.

9. By providing alternative camp site locations, the area within 50 feet of Government Creek inside BLM administered Lands would be closed to camping for resource protection.
10. The camping area would be monitored during grazing periods for damage and issues of waste within the sites from cattle. If damage or issues with public health is evident, then a fence and cattle guards would be installed to protect the campground area.

Alternatives Considered But Not Analyzed in Detail: The location of the campground was considered in two different locations within the North Sand Hills SRMA.

1. The first location was near the Aspen Restroom and dispersed camping area. This location was not viable due to the small area of BLM administered lands available with the adjacent State Trust Land, topography, proximity to Government Creek and cultural resources found in the vicinity. Additionally, to build a minimum of 10 campsites with pullouts/pull-ins most of the Aspen stand on BLM administered lands located at this location would be removed for the campground construction.
2. The second location was on the west side of County Road 6S, near the southwest corner of the North Sand Hills SRMA. This location was not viable due to topography that would elevate construction costs beyond budget due to the requirement for cut and fill. Additional constraints included private land boundaries to the west, and location of high tension 115KV Powerlines that intersect the SRMA.

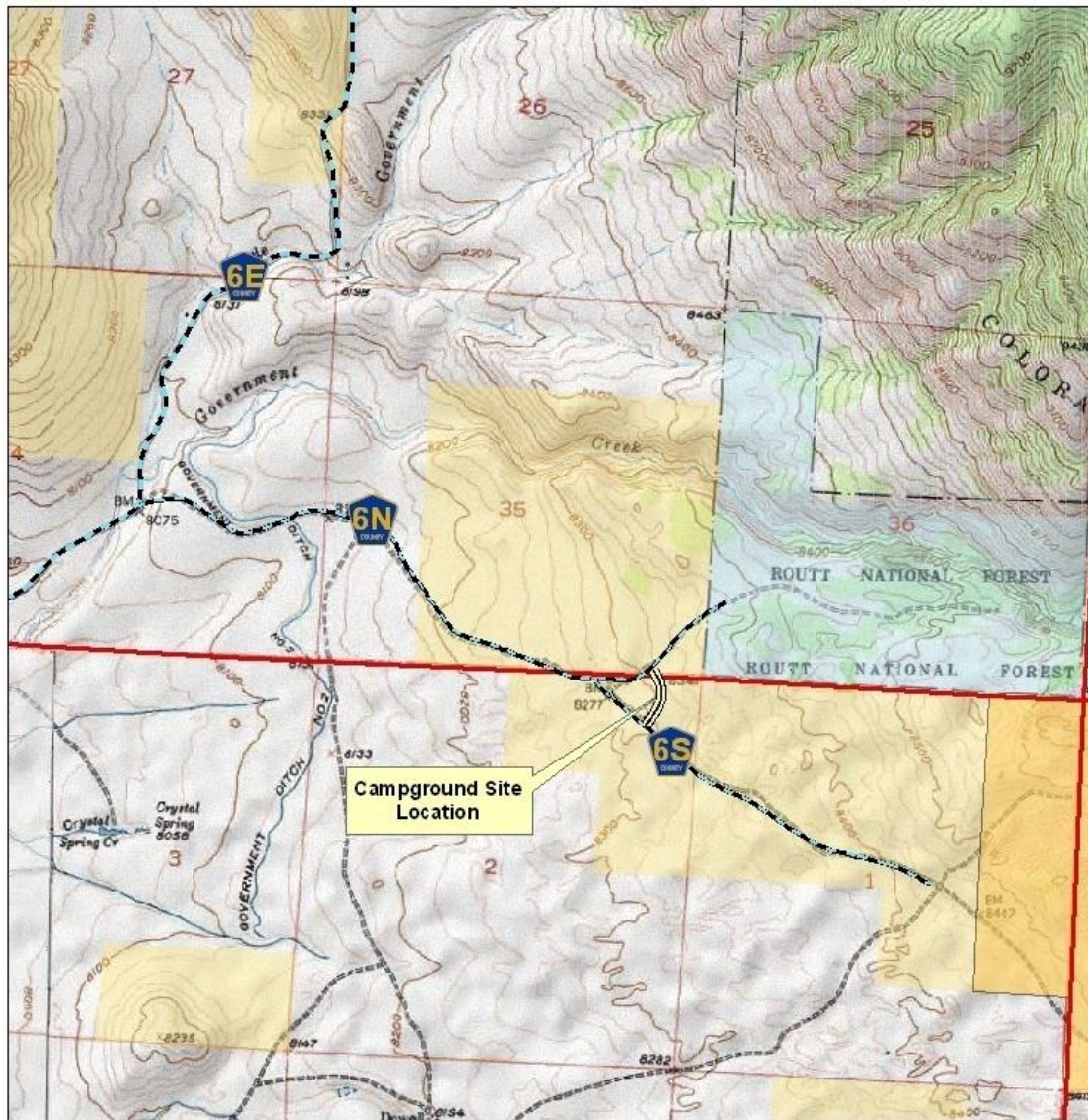
Design Features of the Proposed Action:

- Signs should be placed within the North Sand Hills two weeks prior to construction notifying the public of the project commencement date. A press release will also be disseminated and will be posted on the Kremmling Field Office website.
- The BLM would monitor the project area for the establishment or spread of invasive, non-native species after the project is completed. If invasive, non-native species become established as a result of the Proposed Action, BLM would be responsible for their control.
- The length of the planned construction period (July 1st to September 30th) would require a general construction permit along with a stormwater water protection plan. The BLM would prepare the plan and obtain a permit. If best management practices are required that are outside of the construction contract, the Field Office would need to provide the additional materials and pay for any work order changes.
- Dust control practices would occur to help stabilize the site during construction, and improve traffic safety in the area.

- Site construction would not begin until July 6, 2010. This is to ensure public health and safety during the Fourth of July Holiday weekend, when there could be up to 5000 visitors to the North Sand Hills.
- Bladed sagebrush from road and campsite development should be masticated and the chips dispersed across the site area.



North Sand Hills SRMA Resource Protection - Campground



Reference Map
NW Colorado

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

1:24,000



Legend

- County Roads
- Major Roads
- Wilderness Study Area
- Bureau of Land Mgt
- US Forest Service
- Private
- State
- State Forest

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

North Sand Hills Visitor Outreach Brief - 5/13/2009
5:NEPA/2009 NEPA MAPS

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed improvements would not be constructed and overcrowding of the dispersed camping areas and the associated resource impacts would continue.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: Decision #7, Page #11

Decision Language:

Objective: “To ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities which the public seeks and which are not readily available from other sources, to reduce the impact of the recreational use on fragile and unique resource values, and to provide for visitor safety, and resource interpretation.”

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The vegetation in the project area includes sagebrush and bitterbrush with an understory of grasses and forbs and an over story vegetation of aspen. Important migratory birds likely to inhabit the area include short-eared owls, golden eagles, Northern harriers, Swainson’s hawks, sage sparrows, Brewer’s sparrows, and mountain bluebirds. Williamson’s sapsuckers, Virginia’s warblers, red-tailed hawks, Cooper’s hawks, and sharp-shinned hawks, have been observed in the riparian habitat along Government Creek.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed project would allow for the construction of permanent campsites, roads and a toilet. Due to the limited amount of vegetation within the project area, it is anticipated that very little habitat for migratory birds will be impacted. Under the no action alternative the campsite, roads and toilet would not be constructed, which would encourage people to camp in dispersed areas. In the past, camping in dispersed areas has resulted in the cutting of trees and loss of vegetation in camp sites which would be a greater negative impact on migratory birds.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: A list of threatened, endangered, and candidate species which could inhabit the area was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on November 2, 2009. Analysis of this list indicated that no listed species would be affected by the proposed project.

Corispermum navicula, or Boat shaped bugseed, is a rare (G1S1) plant that occurs near the project area on the sand dunes. This species has not been officially designated as a special status species; however, in June of 2009 it was proposed to be listed as BLM Sensitive. These plants tend to grow on the margins of active sand that tends also to be deeper sand with little vegetation. Little is known about the species beyond its description or its geographic distribution. While Sergei Mosyakin, the recognized expert on the genus, remarked that the newly described *C. navicula* was “the most striking and recognizable morphotype” among species of the southwestern United States, he has recognized that, for most of these taxa, more data (including preserved material and molecular analyses) are required to adequately resolve taxonomic relationships (e.g. between the more common species *Corispermum americanum* which also occurs at the North Sandhills).

Environmental Consequences: The proposed project would allow for the construction of permanent campsites, roads and a toilet. Due to the adequate distance from the project area to mapped locations of the bugseed, and that the habitat within the project area is not typical of its current habitat preference, it is unlikely that neither the plant nor any suitable habitat will be impacted. Under the no action alternative the campsite, roads and toilet would not be constructed, which would encourage people to camp in dispersed areas. In the past, camping in dispersed areas has caused loss of vegetation in camp sites which could be a greater negative impact on the plant if camping occurred where the plant is located.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located within the Canadian River 5th order watershed, within the North Platte River Basin. The campground is located on a sagebrush flat, about a half mile south of Government Creek. The campground and road are located within the drainage area of North Sand Creek. Neither North Sand Creek nor Government Creek are identified in the 303(d) List as having impaired water quality. The BLM has monitored sediments in Government Creek since the 1980s. Initially the monitoring was initiated due to concerns regarding livestock damaging the streambanks. During the time that grazing management improved the riparian and stream conditions, OHV use expanded from the Sand Hills into the riparian zone. There are concerns about resource damage from OHV use in and along the creek, and camping within the riparian zone.

Environmental Consequences: The Proposed Action is not likely to directly impact water quality. The Clean Water Act as amended requires a stormwater permit for surface disturbances of one acre or greater to reduce potential water quality impacts. It is expected that this action would qualify for a low erosivity exemption waiver due to the distance to surface waters, the sandy soil, and the flat terrain. By gravelling the road and the pull-outs, the site is very stable for water erosion concerns. The Proposed Action, combined with planned recreation management

actions would, however, reduce recreational use adjacent to and in Government Creek. This is needed to continue to stabilize streambanks, reducing stream width and improving stream shading. Under the No Action Alternative, recreationists would continue to use the areas within the riparian zone for camping, waste disposal, and new trails.

There are no impacts to ground water quality from the No Action and the Proposed Action Alternatives.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: Although Government Creek and North Sand Creek are considered to be meeting the state standards, they are the few streams within Colorado's North Platte basin that are not coldwater fisheries, class 1. Their existing water quality is below most of the local streams. By more actively managing the North Sand Hills recreational uses the BLM is insuring that their land uses are not contributing to water quality concerns. The No Action Alternative would forego this opportunity to help protect water quality.

WETLANDS & RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action is located approximately a half mile from Government Creek, a small perennial creek. The BLM owns approximately 1 mile of stream, with the state forest upstream and private lands downstream. Government Creek supports a willow/alder riparian community that was one of the only "Non-functioning" stream segments within the Kremmling Field Office. Livestock use had almost removed willows from the lower segment, with Kentucky bluegrass and dutch white clover predominant along the streambanks. These non-native species lack the roots needed to stabilize the sandy soils, and high spring runoff widened the channel. Late summer flows are often just a few inches in depth in this lower section. Since the 1990s, the BLM has used temporary fences, grazing plans, a spring development, and drilled a water well to reduce livestock grazing pressure. Due to increased OHV use along the creek, however, much of the riparian improvements were negligible. The BLM constructed a fence to exclude OHV use and manage livestock for the lower portion of Government Creek. This segment, and the rest of the BLM segments are now considered "Functioning at Risk", needing continued management to improve.

Environmental Consequences: The Proposed Action would provide needed developed campsites to reduce the dispersed camping that is occurring at the North Sand Hills. The action, combined with other proposed management, would help eliminate the camping use adjacent to Government Creek, promoting the riparian area's vegetation to re-establish. Under the No Action Alternative, efforts to close the riparian area to camping would be much more difficult, as desirable camping locations are limited.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The Proposed Action would help the Government Creek area move towards meeting the Standard. The No Action Alternative would forego an opportunity to help improve the riparian conditions along the creek.

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The campground site is mapped in the Jackson County Soil Survey as being a Bangston fine sand, 1 to 10 percent slopes. Due to the sandy texture, the hazard of water erosion is moderate, as runoff is slow and permeability is rapid. The soil's fertility is highly tolerant of erosion. The soil is considered to be highly erodible by wind.

Environmental Consequences: During construction, the hazard of blowing sand will be high. Once the sagebrush has been scraped off the site, winds will be able to easily remove the sand, especially the finer textured, more organic surface layer. Once the campground is constructed, however, most of the disturbed surfaces will be graveled, providing protection from the wind. Under the No Action Alternative, dispersed camping areas will continue to expand, removing vegetation and not stabilizing the areas with vegetation or gravel. Soil loss will continue.

Mitigation: None

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in North Sand Hills SRMA. The vegetation found in the area is a mixture of sagebrush and bitterbrush with an understory of grasses and forbs and an over story vegetation of aspen. There is a large riparian area (Government Creek) that is found within the project area. This area supports a vegetation component of willows, sedges and other riparian plants.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed project would allow for the construction of permanent campsites, roads and a toilet. Due to the limited amount of vegetation within the project area the proposed project is not anticipated to effect the vegetation. Under the no action alternative the campsites, roads and toilet would not be constructed. This encourages people to camp in dispersed areas. In the past, camping in dispersed areas has caused the cutting of green aspen trees and loss of vegetation in camp sites.

Mitigation: None

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL & AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed project area provides important habitat for a variety of wildlife including mule deer, pronghorn antelope, Rocky Mountain elk, white-tailed jackrabbits, coyotes and several species of small rodents. Deer and elk inhabit the units proposed for fertilization during winter, while pronghorn are spring and summer residents. The other mammals listed above are yearlong residents.

Government Creek is a small spring-fed perennial drainage located within the project area. Although it is not known to support fish, it does provide habitat for other aquatic species such as waterbirds, beaver, and muskrat during wet periods.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed project would allow for the construction of permanent campsites, roads and toilet. Increased traffic and noise as a result of the proposed construction activities would temporarily displace wildlife that use the area. However, sufficient habitat exists adjacent to the proposed site to support wildlife displaced by the construction activities associated with the proposed project. Due to the limited amount of vegetation within the project area, it is anticipated that very little habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife would be impacted. Under the no action alternative the campsite, roads and toilet would not be constructed, which would encourage people to camp in dispersed areas. In the past, camping in dispersed areas has caused the cutting of trees and loss of vegetation in camp sites which would be a greater negative impact on wildlife.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action is within the North Sand Hills SRMA. The recreation site is used primarily by OHV enthusiasts and campers. Other recreation opportunities include hunting, hiking, snowmobiling and learning about the area resources and dune morphology. Approximately 20,000 visitors use the site annually. The site is the only sand dune complex in Colorado that provides and permits OHV opportunities. The season of use at the site is generally May through October. Currently, motorized travel is limited to existing routes and is open to dispersed camping opportunities. During holiday weekends, visitation can be as high as 5000 visitors, many with large Recreational Vehicles with trailers carrying OHV's. While dispersed camping opportunities exist on adjacent State Trust and State Forest State Park lands, the limited size of the area leads to congestion and crowding on high use weekends.

Environmental Consequences: The Proposed Action would help alleviate the congestion of dispersed camping areas and the associated resource impacts. The proposed construction would not change the overall recreation setting at the site due to its location near the entrance to the SRMA. Current areas open to dispersed camping would not be impacted by this campground construction. There would be short-term impacts along County Roads 6N and 6S to users at the site during the construction phase for the staging and movement of construction vehicles. No county roads, existing trails, or dispersed camping areas, except in the construction zone, would be closed during construction.

Mitigation: None

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:

The area considered for analyzing the incremental effect of the Proposed Action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions is the North Sand Hills Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). While the boundaries for cumulative impact analysis will vary for different resources and activities, this area was considered appropriate for all resources and uses.

In regards to past actions, there are three CXT restrooms, an informational kiosk, approximately 2000 feet of buck and rail fencing, steel post and cable pasture fencing and numerous regulatory

and directional signage at this site. Two maintained county roads, a 115 Kilovolt high tension powerline and multiple user-created trails and roads are within the SRMA.

In regards to present and future actions, the Proposed Action would add an additional CXT restroom, a new maintained access road and 13 developed camp sites. As funding becomes available, additional camp sites and access roads may be developed to meet visitor demand while providing for resource protection.

The direct and indirect impacts that would result from the Proposed Action would be minimal due to the existing ground disturbance and current facilities at the SRMA. Thus, there would be no cumulative impacts as a result of the Proposed Action. There would be cumulative impacts to wildlife, riparian areas and vegetation in the SRMA as a result of the No Action Alternative. Dispersed camping would continue to impact those resources.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: See Appendix 2 for Tribal List.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

FONSI

DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0064-EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA.

RATIONALE: The decision to construct the campground facilities and access road was based upon a thorough analysis by the BLM Interdisciplinary Team. The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Kremmling Resource Management Plan which directs the BLM to ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities which the public seeks and which are not readily available from other sources, to reduce the impact of the recreational use on fragile and unique resource values, and to provide for visitor safety, and resource interpretation. The current level of visitation to the North Sand Hills SRMA has increased the need for facilities to protect natural resources and meet visitor demand. BLM's authorization to construct the campground facilities and access road will help meet this need.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING:

- The camp area would be monitored during grazing periods for damage and issues of waste within the sites from cattle. If damage or issues with public health is evident, then a fence and cattle guards would be installed to protect the campground area.
- The BLM would monitor the project area for the establishment or spread of invasive, non-native species after the project is completed. If invasive, non-native species become established as a result of the Proposed Action; BLM would be responsible for their control.

NAME OF PREPARER: John Monkouski

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Peter McFadden

DATE: 12/03/09

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Peter A. McFadden

DATE SIGNED: 12/03/09

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist

Appendix 2 – Native American Tribal List

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Engineering Site Plans

Attachment 2 - Standard Cultural & Paleontological stipulations

Appendix 1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: North Sand Hills SRMA Resource Protection - Campground

Project Leader: John Monkouski

Date Proposal Received: (Only for external proposals)

Date Submitted for Comment:

Due Date for Comments: December 1, 2009

Need for a field Exam: (If so, schedule a date/time)

Scoping Needs/Interested or Affected Publics: (Identify public scoping needs)

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

| Consultation | Date Initiated | Date Completed | Responsible Specialist/ Contractor | Comments |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO | 9/23/09 | 11/23/09 | BBW | The proposed action is a no effect, there are no historic properties that would be affected. |
| Native American | 7/23/09 | 11/23/09 | BBW | To date no Native American Tribe that is consulted with has identified any are of traditional spiritual concern. |
| T&E Species/FWS | N/A | N/A | MM | |
| Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water) | 11/20/09 | | PB | The Engineering Office provided an actual disturbance size of 1.36 acres. A stormwater permit or low erosivity waiver is being pursued and will be in place prior to construction. |

(NP) = Not Present

(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted

(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.

| NP NI PI | Discipline/Name | Date Review Comp. | Initials | Review Comments (required for Critical Element NIs, and for elements that require a finding but are not carried forward for analysis.) |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|----------|---|
| CRITICAL ELEMENTS | | | | |
| NI | Air Quality Belcher | 11/19/09 | PB | Depending on conditions at the time of construction, there may be short term increases in dust. The increase would not continue after the campsite is constructed and would not be of significant quantity. |
| NP | Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Cassel | 12/1/09 | SC | There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area. |
| NP | Cultural Resources Wyatt | 11/23/09 | BBW | The proposed action is a no effect, there are no historic properties that would be affected. |
| NP | Environmental Justice Cassel | 12/1/09 | SC | According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area. |

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|--|--|-------------------------------------|----------|-----|---|
| NP | Farmlands, Prime and Unique | Belcher | 11/30/09 | PB | There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area. |
| NP | Floodplains | Belcher | 11/30/09 | PB | The proposed project area is in an upland area and will have no direct or indirect effect on floodplains. |
| NP | Invasive, Non-native Species | Johnson Torma Hughes | 11/24/09 | ZH | There are no known invasive, non-native species (noxious weeds) growing in the project area. Since soil or vegetation disturbing activities provide an avenue for the establishment or expansion of invasive, non-native species, the BLM would monitor the project area as specified in the Proposed Action. |
| PI | Migratory Birds | McGuire | 11/23/09 | MM | See analysis. |
| | Native American Religious Concerns | Wyatt | 11/23/09 | BBW | To date no Native American Tribe that is consulted with has identified any are of traditional spiritual concern. |
| PI | T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4) | McGuire | 11/23/09 | MM | See analysis. |
| NP | Wastes, Hazardous and Solid | Hodgson | 11/30/09 | KH | There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area, and there would be no wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative. |
| PI | Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5) | Belcher | 11/30/09 | PB | See Water Quality Section. |
| PI | Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2) | Belcher | 11/30/09 | PB | See Wetland Section. |
| NP | Wild and Scenic Rivers | Windsor | 11/16/09 | AW | There are no eligible Wild and Scenic River segments in the proposed project area. |
| NP | Wilderness | Monkouski | 10/23/09 | JJM | The project is approximately .8 miles from the North Sand Hills ISA/WSA boundary. The proposed action is outside the WSA. The proposed action will provide a new alternative camping location alleviating impacts from camping within the ISA. |
| NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS (A finding must be made for these elements) | | | | | |
| PI | Soils (Finding on Standard 1) | Belcher | 11/30/09 | PB | See Soil Section. |
| | Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3) | Johnson Torma | 11/23/09 | PT | See vegetation section |
| PI | Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3) | McGuire | 11/23/09 | MM | See analysis. |
| PI | Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3) | McGuire | 11/23/09 | MM | See analysis. |
| OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS | | | | | |
| NI | Access/Transportation | Monkouski | 10/23/09 | JJM | Under the proposed action there would be no route or area closures, with the exception of the construction zone, within the North Sand Hills SRMA during the construction period. |
| NP | Forest Management | K. Belcher | 11/23/09 | KB | No forest resources present. |
| NI | Geology and Minerals | Hodgson | 11/30/09 | KH | No impact. |
| | Fire | Wyatt | 11/23/09 | BBW | Bladed sagebrush from road and campsite development should be masticated and the chips dispersed across the site area. |
| NP | Hydrology/Water Rights | Belcher | 11/30/09 | PB | The proposed action will not provide drinking |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---|----------|-----|--|
| | | | | water at the campsite. There is no impact to existing water rights. See Water Quality for hydrologic discussion. |
| NP | Paleontology Rupp | 11/16/09 | FGR | There are no paleontologically sensitive geologic structures within the APE, and there would be no impact to paleontological resources as a result of implementing the proposed action. |
| NI | Noise Monkouski | 10/23/09 | JJM | There would be minimal, short-term impacts from construction equipment. However, these impacts would be negligible when considered with other noise from recreation activities in the area. |
| NI | Range Management Johnson Torma | 11/23/09 | PT | This area is part of livestock grazing allotment 07163. This project is not anticipated to effect livestock use. |
| NP | Lands/ Realty Authorizations Cassel | 11/24/09 | AS | There are no leases or permits in the proposed area. Jackson County has a right-of-way for the maintenance of 6N and 6S which should not be a conflict. |
| PI | Recreation Monkouski Windsor | 10/23/09 | JJM | See Analysis. |
| NI | Socio-Economics Cassel | 12/1/09 | SC | At this point, no fees would be charged for the proposed campground and therefore the socio-economics of the area would not be impacted by the proposed action or the no action alternative. |
| NI | Visual Resources Windsor | 11/16/09 | AW | The proposed project is in a Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) Class III area. Since the 1984 Resource Management Plan (RMP) did not designate Visual Resource Management (VRM) areas, BLM manages visual resources to protect the VRI by applying management class objectives to the inventory. Objectives for VRM Class III are to partially retain the existing landscape. Changes to the landscape should be moderate and may attract attention, but should not dominate the landscape. The landscape change from construction of the campsites would be moderate. The new campsites would attract the attention of people traveling on either CR 6N and 6S, but would not dominate the surrounding landscape. |
| NI | Cumulative Impact Summary Monkouski | 12/02/09 | JJM | See Analysis. |
| FINAL REVIEW | | | | |
| | P&E Coordinator McFadden | 12/03/09 | PM | |

Appendix 2

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES CONTACTED:

Ivan Posey, Chairman
Shoshone Business Council
Shoshone Tribe
P O Box 538
Ft. Washakie, WY 82514

Mr. Norman Tidzump
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Shoshone Tribe, Cultural Center
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Ernest House, Sr., Chairman
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P O Box JJ
Towaoc, CO 81334

Mr. Terry Knight, Sr., NAGPRA Representative
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P O Box 468
Towaoc, CO 81334

Harvey Spoonhunter, Chairman
Northern Arapaho Business Council
P O Box 328
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

THPO Director
Northern Arapaho Tribe
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Ernest House, Jr., Executive Secretary
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130 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203

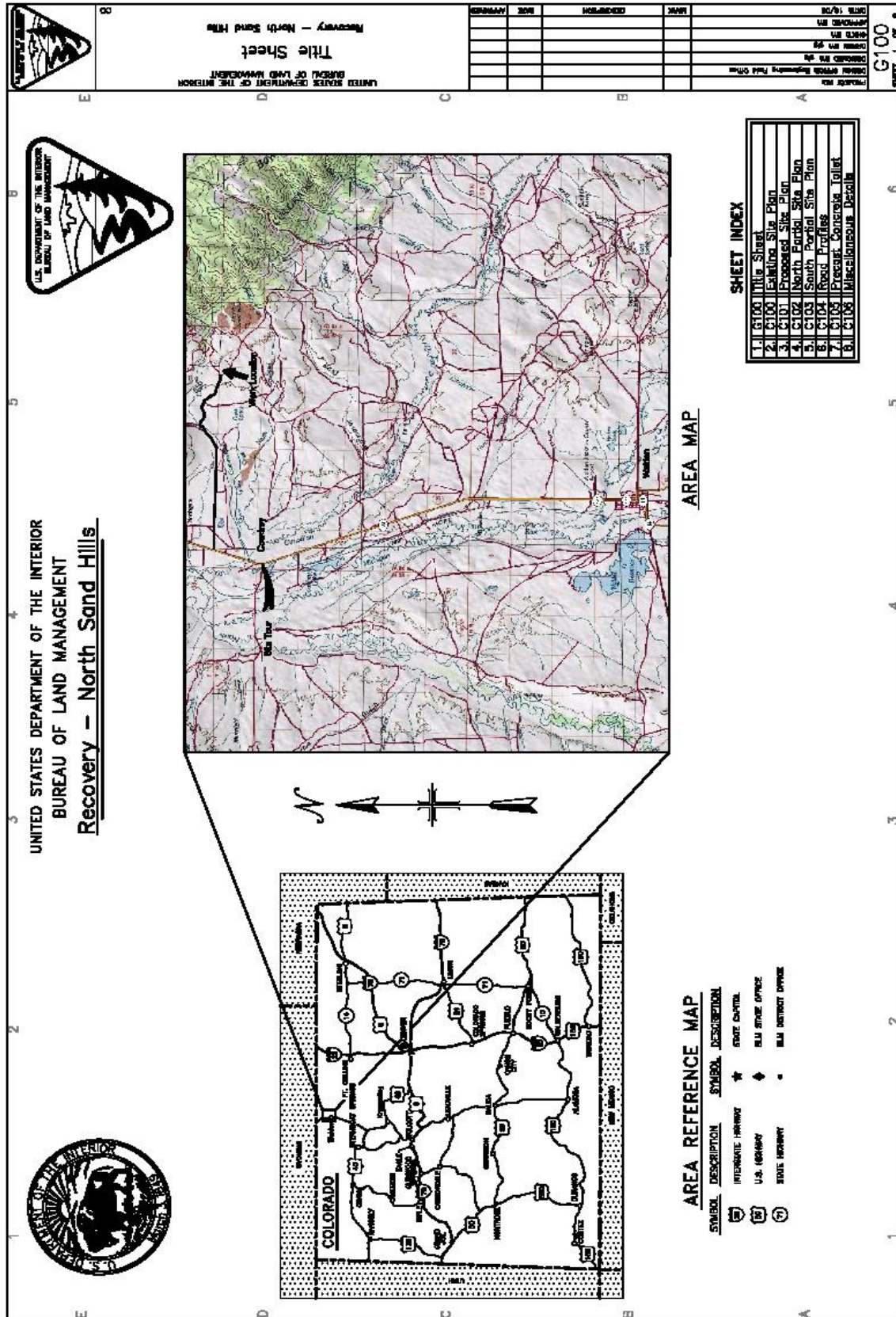
Robert Goggles, NAGPRA Representative
Northern Arapaho Tribe
328 Seventeen Mile Road
Arapaho, WY 82510

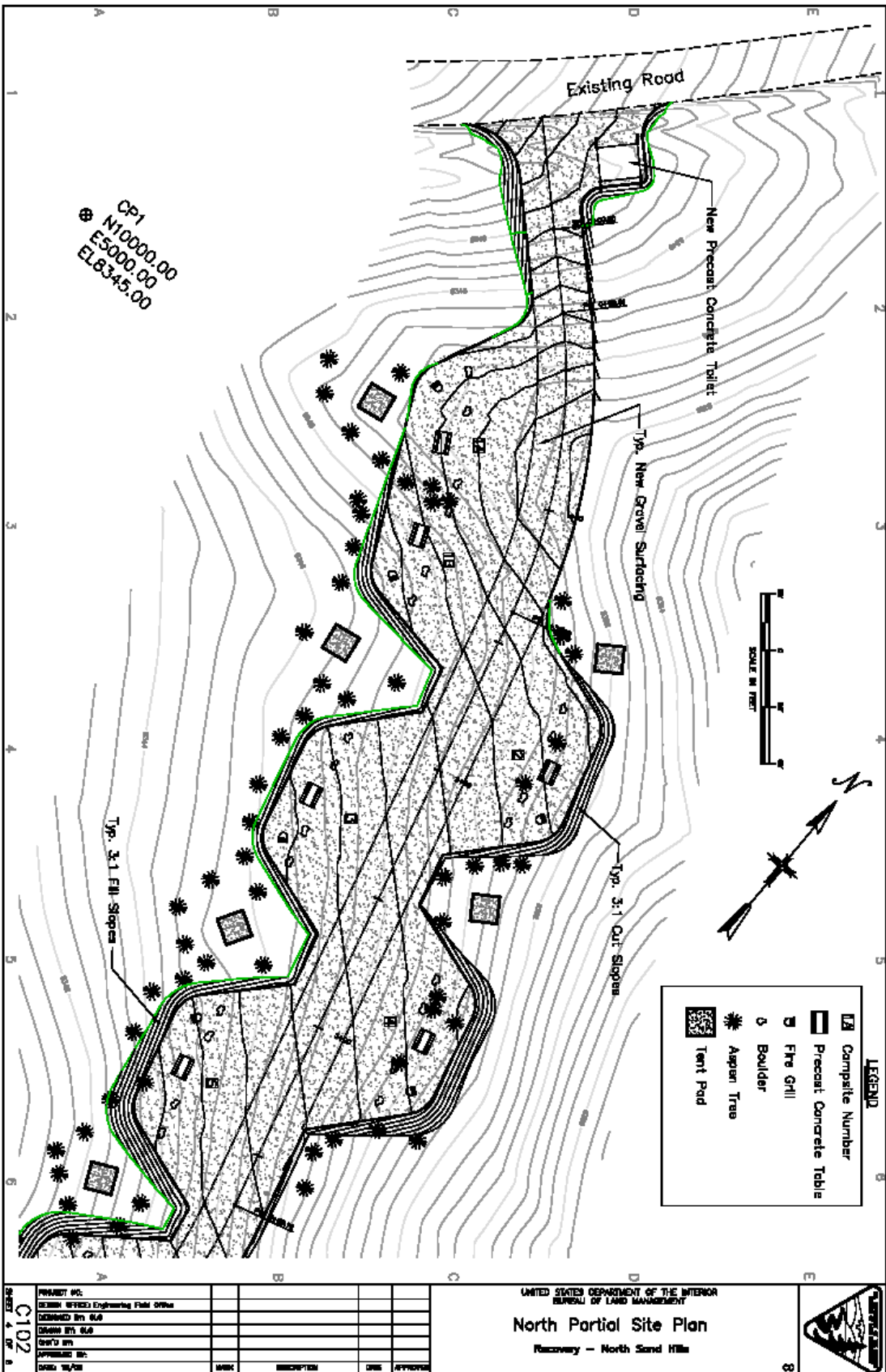
Mathew Box, Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
P O Box 737
Ignacio, CO 81137

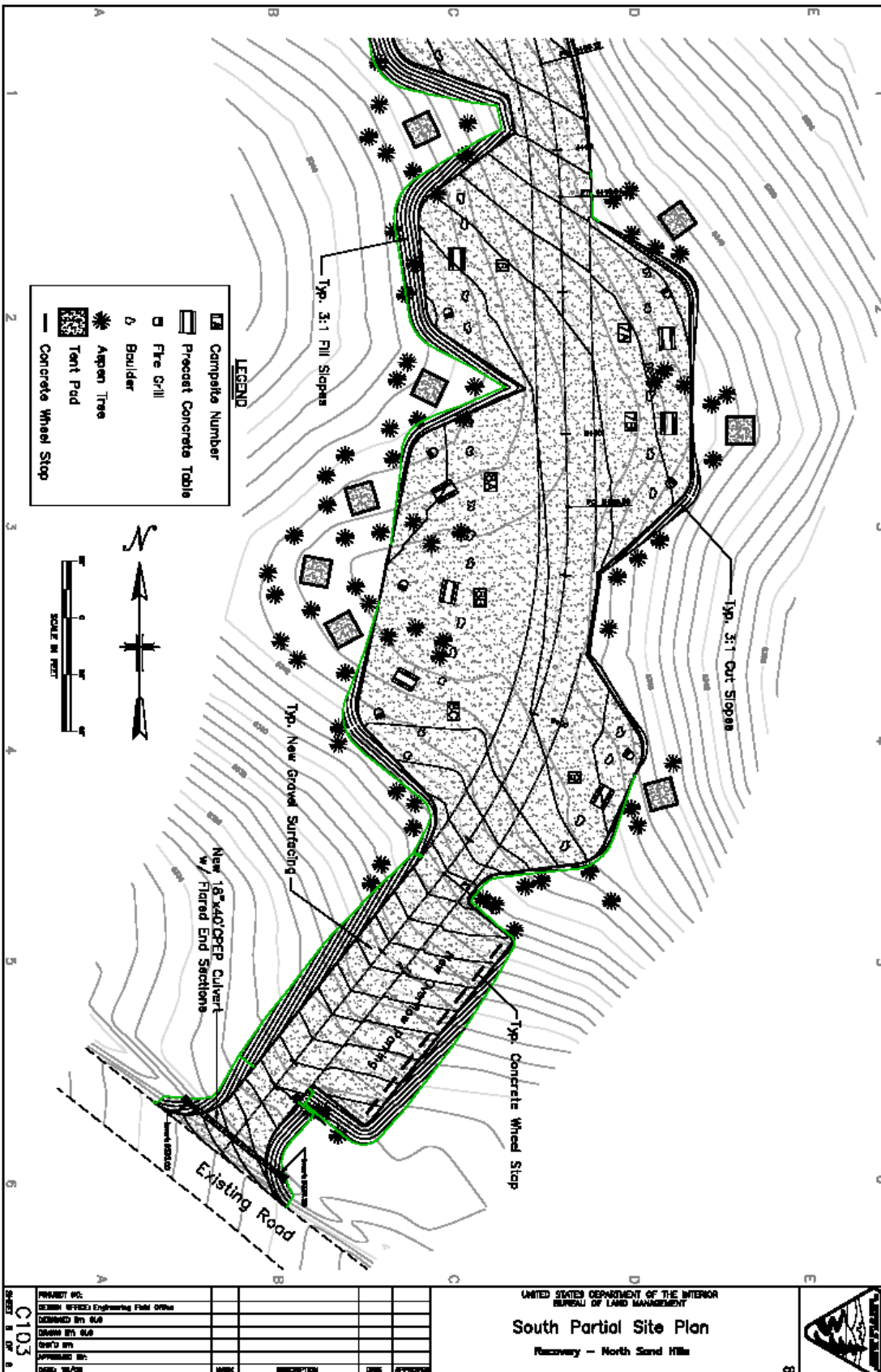
Neil Cloud, NAGPRA Representative
Southern Ute Tribe
Mail Stop #73
Ignacio, CO 81137

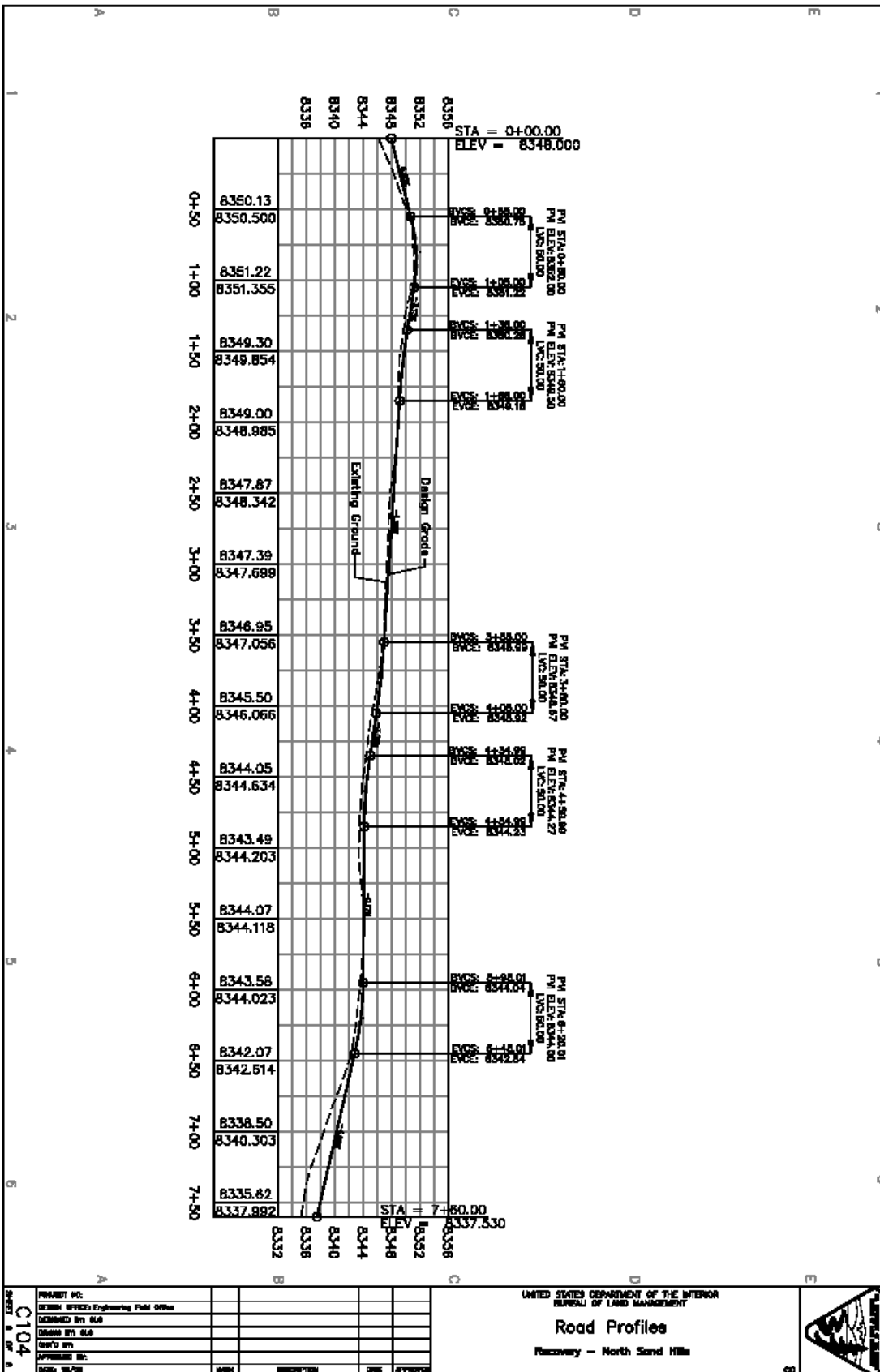
Curtis Cesspooch, Chairman
Uintah & Ouray Tribal Business Committee
P O Box 190
Ft. Duchesne, UT 84026

Betsy Chapoose, Director
Cultural Rights & Protection Specialist
Uintah & Ouray Tribe
P O Box 190
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026









Attachment 2

Standard Cultural & Paleontological stipulations:

For purposes of this document and the application of these stipulations, the “holder” is the BLM contractor hired to complete this project.

The holder shall immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any and all antiquities, or other objects of historic, paleontological, or scientific interest including but not limited to, historic or prehistoric ruins or artifacts DISCOVERED as a result of operations under this authorization (16 U.S.C. 470.-3, 36 CFR 800.112). The holder shall immediately suspend all activities in the area of the object and shall leave such discoveries intact until written approval to proceed is obtained from the Authorized Officer. Approval to proceed will be based upon evaluation of the object(s). Evaluation shall be by a qualified professional selected by the Authorized Officer from a Federal agency insofar as practicable (BLM Manual 8142.06E). When not practicable, the holder shall bear the cost of the services of a non-Federal professional.

Within five working days the Authorized Officer will inform the holder as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
- A timeframe for the Authorized Officer to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the Authorized Officer are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the Authorized Officer will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the holder will be responsible for mitigation costs. The Authorized Officer will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the Authorized Officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the holder will then be allowed to resume construction.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest that are outside of the authorization boundaries but directly associated with the impacted resource will also be included in this evaluation and/or mitigation.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest, identified or unidentified, that are outside of the authorization and not associated with the resource within the authorization will also be protected. Impacts that occur to such resources, which are related to the authorizations activities, will be mitigated at the holder’s cost.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the Authorized Officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer.